AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) An intervertebral implant ~~(1), specifically an artificial intervertebral disk,~~ comprising a central axis ~~(2)~~, an upper section ~~(10),~~ suitable for laying onto the base plate of a vertebral body lying above, and a lower section ~~(20)~~ suitable for laying onto the cover plate of a vertebral body lying below, wherein:

~~A)~~ the upper section ~~(10) is provided with~~ has a ventral side area ~~(11)~~, a dorsal side area ~~(12)~~, two lateral side areas ~~(13,14)~~, a top apposition surface ~~(15),~~ and a bottom surface ~~(16)~~;

~~B)~~ the lower section ~~(20) is provided with~~ has a ventral side area ~~(21)~~, a dorsal side area ~~(22)~~, two lateral side areas ~~(23,24)~~, a bottom apposition surface ~~(25),~~ and a top surface ~~(26)~~; ~~wherein~~ and

~~C)~~ the two sections ~~(10,20)~~ are moveable in relation to each other ~~by means of~~ via two joints ~~(38;39)~~ arranged between the two sections ~~(10;20)~~, wherein:

~~D)~~ each of the joints ~~(38;39) is provided with~~ has a swivel axle ~~(3;4)~~ and the two swivel axles ~~(3;4)~~ are arranged transversely or perpendicular to each other;

~~E)~~ the two joints ~~(38;39) are realised by means of~~ comprise an upper joint element ~~(31)~~ connected with the upper section ~~(10)~~, a central joint element ~~(32),~~ and a lower joint element ~~(33)~~ connected with the lower section ~~(20)~~;

~~F)~~ one of the ~~external~~ upper and lower joint sections ~~(31;33)~~ comprises at least one concave sliding surface ~~(58)~~ rotation-symmetrical with regard to ~~a~~ one of the swivel axle ~~(3;4)~~; and

~~G)~~ the central joint section ~~(32)~~ comprises at least one convex sliding surface ~~(57)~~ complementary to this concave sliding surface ~~(58)~~, wherein

~~H)~~ the other of the ~~external~~ upper and lower joint sections ~~(31;33)~~ comprises at least one convex sliding surface ~~(55)~~ rotation-symmetrical with regard to the other swivel axle ~~(3;4)~~; and

~~I)~~ the central joint section ~~(32)~~ comprises at least one concave sliding surface ~~(56)~~ complementary to this convex sliding surface ~~(55)~~;

~~K)~~ the sliding surfaces ~~(55;56;57;58)~~ are configured as partial surface areas of circular cylindrical or circular conical surface areas; and

~~L)~~ the swivel ~~axes~~ axles ~~(3;4)~~ are arranged skewed to each other.

2. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant ~~(1)~~ according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein the lower joint element ~~(33)~~ comprises at least one lower concave sliding surface ~~(58)~~ rotation-symmetrical with regard to the first swivel axle ~~(3)~~ and the central joint section ~~(32)~~ comprises at least one lower convex sliding surface ~~(57)~~ complementary to the lower concave sliding surface ~~(58)~~.

3. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant ~~(1)~~ according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein the upper joint element ~~(31)~~ comprises at least one upper convex sliding surface ~~(55)~~ rotation-symmetrical with regard to the second swivel axle ~~(4)~~ and the central joint section ~~(32)~~ comprises at least one upper concave sliding surface ~~(56)~~ complementary to the upper convex sliding surface ~~(55)~~.

4. – 6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant ~~(1)~~ according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising a means ~~(40) is provided that keeps~~ for keeping the two sections ~~(10;20)~~, measured at their ventral side areas ~~(11;21)~~, at a fixed distance from each other.

8. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant ~~(1)~~ according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising a means ~~(40) is provided that is suitable~~ for causing temporary blocking of the mobility of the two sections ~~(10,20)~~ around the joints ~~(38;39)~~.

9. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant ~~(1)~~ according to ~~Claim~~ claim 7, wherein the means ~~(40)~~ can be attached to the two ventral side areas ~~(11,21)~~ of the two sections ~~(10;20)~~.

10. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant ~~(1)~~ according to ~~Claim~~ claim 8, wherein the means ~~(40)~~ include an insert ~~(41)~~ with a lower end ~~(45)~~ and an upper end ~~(46)~~ and a depression ~~(42;43)~~ in the surfaces ~~(16;26)~~ at each of the two sections ~~(10;20)~~, which are open on the ventral side areas ~~(11;21)~~, and that the insert ~~(41)~~ with its ends ~~(45;46)~~ can be inserted into each of the depressions ~~(42;43)~~.

11. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant ~~(1)~~ according to ~~Claim~~ claim 10, wherein the depressions ~~(42;43)~~ are dovetail guides and the ends ~~(45;46)~~ on the insert ~~(41)~~ are arranged complementary to these dovetail guides.

12. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant ~~(1)~~ according to ~~Claim~~ claim 11, wherein the dovetail guides are tapered from the ventral side areas ~~(11;21)~~ towards the dorsal side areas ~~(12;22)~~.

13. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant ~~(1)~~ according to claim 1, wherein the upper and the lower ~~section~~ sections ~~(10;20)~~ each comprise at least two drill holes ~~(80)~~ running through from the ventral side areas ~~(11;21)~~ to the apposition surfaces ~~(15;25)~~ with longitudinal axes ~~(83)~~ for receiving bone fixation devices ~~(81)~~.

14. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant ~~(1)~~ according to ~~Claim~~ claim 13, wherein the longitudinal axes ~~(83)~~ of the drill holes ~~(80)~~ make an angle γ with the central axis ~~(2)~~.

15. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant ~~(1)~~ according to ~~Claim~~ claim 14, wherein the angle γ lies in a range ~~of~~ between 20° and 65°.

16. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant ~~(1)~~ according to claim 13, wherein the longitudinal axes ~~(83)~~ of the drill holes ~~(80)~~ as seen from the ventral side areas ~~(11;21)~~ diverge from the inner surfaces ~~(16;26)~~ against the apposition surfaces ~~(15;25)~~.

17. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant ~~(1)~~ according to claim 13, wherein the drill holes ~~(80)~~ are conically tapered towards the apposition surfaces ~~(15;25)~~.

18. (currently amended) The intervertebral implant ~~(1)~~ according to claim 13, wherein the drill holes ~~(80) are provided with~~ have an internal thread ~~(82)~~.

19. (currently amended) A process for the replacement of a ~~defect~~ defective, natural intervertebral disk ~~characterized~~ by an intervertebral implant, comprising ~~the steps~~:

~~A)~~ blocking ~~of the~~ one or more joint(s) ~~(38;39)~~ of an intervertebral implant ~~(1) through the special~~ with blocking means ~~(40)~~ inserted in a certain position of the joint(s) ~~(38;39)~~;

~~B) insertion of~~ inserting the intervertebral implant ~~(1)~~ into ~~the~~ an intervertebral space to be treated; and

~~C) release~~ releasing and ~~removal of~~ removing the ~~device (40)~~ blocking means inserted into the intervertebral implant ~~(1)~~ for blocking the joint(s) ~~(38;39)~~.

20. (currently amended) The process according to ~~Claim~~ claim 19, additionally comprising ~~the step of the~~ subsequent blocking of the joint(s) ~~(38;39)~~ on the implanted intervertebral implant ~~(1) through~~ with the blocking means ~~(40)~~.